

**Subject:** Back to School, to Work and to the Future

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[Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin](#)

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## Back to School

Summer is winding down. And while parents across the City are focused on school supplies, uniforms and class schedules, here in the Controller's Office we're already thinking about report cards...

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 el-sereno-arroyo-playground-opening-042.jpg

During the next nine months, my office will be issuing grades--to L.A.'s community parks. We're going to survey a sample of our parks and evaluate them based on their conditions, amenities and overall usefulness to the community. Our goal is to make recommendations that will allow the Dept. of Recreation and Parks to allocate resources in order to meet the community's needs.

So while your kids are playing on slides, swings and seesaws, you'll see our team meeting with park stakeholders, performing on-site inspections of park facilities and surveying members of the community about their experiences. Look for updates on this

exciting project in the days ahead.

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## Back to Work

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In 2013, City employees filed more than seven thousand workers' compensation claims, costing the City \$191 million. Both our workers' compensation expenses as a percentage of wages paid (6.6%) and our incident rate per 100 employees (17) were higher than those of our peer cities.

Reducing those costs has been a key goal of [my office's audits](#) of the City's workers' comp system. So has getting people back to work.

Last week I sat down with the KNBC I-Team to talk about our audits and how we can make sure that putting healthy people back to work is a key priority of our workers' comp system.

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## Back to the Future



Over the last six weeks, I've joined thought leaders from the public and private sectors in a series of Google Innovation Lab workshops. Our goal was to identify innovative ways to modernize City operations and tackle the most daunting challenges we face.


For example, my team looked for new ways to recruit, train and retain the workforce of the future. This will be essential as we expect [a massive wave of retirement](#) in the years ahead.

Meanwhile, another team, which included staff from my office, sought to make the City more business-friendly. In 2015 alone, more than 34,000 new businesses were launched in LA--and it's our job as a City to make it as easy as possible for them and others to do business here.

The video above gives you a great idea of the approach the business team is recommending. Like what you see? Take a look at the new business portal they've created at [business.lacity.org](http://business.lacity.org).

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## Back to Back

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It's awards season in the world of government finance and the Controller's Office is on a back-to-back winning streak. For the second year in a row, my office was recognized for our [Popular Annual Financial Report](#)--which offers a graphic and easy-to-understand snapshot of the City's finances, structure and operations. We released Los Angeles's first Popular Report last year as a feature of our open data and transparency initiatives.

Meanwhile, for the 21st year in a row, our office won the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for our FY 2014-15 [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report](#).

These awards are a testament to the outstanding professionals in our Financial Analysis and Reporting Division. Through their hard work and by using the latest technology, we are telling the story of the City's finances accurately, thoroughly, and in ways that everyone can understand.

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## Back Around...the Community

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